

their homes. We call especially on the Sudanese government to disarm immediately the “Janjaweed” and other armed groups which are responsible for massive human rights violations in Darfur. We call on the conflict parties to address the roots of the Darfur conflict and to seek a political solution.

We support the African Union as it assumes the leading role in the monitoring mission which is now being sent to the Darfur region to supervise the cease-fire agreement.

We pledge our countries’ assistance in ending the conflicts in Sudan and in providing humanitarian aid to those in need. We call on all parties to the conflicts in Sudan to commit themselves to respecting the right of all Sudanese to live in peace and dignity.

We look to the United Nations to lead the international effort to avert a major disaster and will work together to achieve this end.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

G–8 Statement: Gaza Withdrawal and the Road Ahead to Middle East Peace

June 10, 2004

The G–8 welcomes the prospect of Israeli withdrawal from all Gaza settlements and from parts of the West Bank, following the Israeli Cabinet decision to endorse Prime Minister Sharon’s initiative. The G–8 looks forward to the implementation of this decision in 2005, recalling the Quartet statement of 4 May that it “welcomes and encourages such a step, which should provide a rare moment of opportunity in the search for peace in the Middle East.” The G–8 hopes that this disengagement initiative will stimulate progress towards peace in the region, the realization of Palestinian national aspirations and the achievement of our common objective of two states, Israel and a viable, democratic, sovereign and contiguous Palestine, living side by side in peace and security.

The G–8 views the Quartet Roadmap as the way forward towards a comprehensive settlement and calls on all parties to abide by their obligations under the Roadmap. The G–8 countries will join with others in the international community, led by the Quartet,

to restore momentum on the Roadmap, to enhance humanitarian and economic conditions among the Palestinian people and to build democratic, transparent and accountable Palestinian institutions. We will also work to help ensure security and stability in Gaza and the areas of the West Bank from which Israel withdraws. We call on both sides to end all acts of violence.

In furtherance of these goals, the G–8 calls upon the Quartet to meet in the region before the end of this month, engage with Israeli and Palestinian representatives and set out its plans for taking forward in practical terms its declaration of May 4.

We support and commend all efforts, including those by Egypt, to resolve critical security issues relating to Gaza, and urge that this important work continue. We urge and support the rebuilding and refocusing of Palestinian security services in accordance with the Roadmap, so that they enforce the rule of law, mount effective operations against all forms of terrorism, and report to an empowered Interior Minister and Prime Minister.

We believe the important work of the Local Aid Coordinating Committee to alleviate the humanitarian situation in Gaza and the West Bank must continue. We suggest that preparations should begin now for a meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee with the aim of revitalizing the Palestinian economy. We welcome and encourage international support for the World Bank-established Trust Fund as an accountable and transparent mechanism for receipt of international assistance. We also welcome plans of the Palestinian Authority to hold municipal elections beginning at the end of the summer, and believe that the Task Force on Palestinian Reform should meet soon to assist in preparations to assure that these and subsequent elections will be fair and transparent, and serve as the building block of democratic reform.

The G–8 welcomes the international conference on UNRWA in Geneva and supports close coordination between all groups involved in international assistance.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 5

In the morning, at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence in Rome, Italy, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then went to the Villa Madama.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Paris, France.

In the evening, at the Elysee Palace, the President had a working dinner with President Jacques Chirac of France.

June 6

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

Later in the morning, at the Normandy American Cemetery, the President participated in an interview with Tom Brokaw of NBC News. The President and Mrs. Bush then greeted President Jacques Chirac of France and Mrs. Chirac. Later, the two Presidents participated in a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-day.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Caen, France, where, in the Caen Town Hall, they participated in a lunch with multinational leaders. Later, they traveled to Arromanches, France, where they attended a multinational ceremony to commemorate D-day.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Sea Island, GA.

June 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at the Sea Island Beach Complex, he participated in a Group of Eight (G-8) Summit briefing and toured the Summit meeting facilities.

In the afternoon, on Sea Island Drive, the President and Mrs. Bush participated in a tree planting ceremony.

In the evening, at the Sea Island Beach Complex, the President and Mrs. Bush par-

ticipated in a reception for G-8 Summit organizers and community leaders.

June 8

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, at Dunbar House, the President had a working lunch with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan. Later, also at Dunbar House, he participated in separate meetings with Prime Minister Paul Martin of Canada, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany, and President Vladimir Putin of Russia.

In the evening, at McGuirk House, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a dinner for G-8 leaders and their spouses.

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles Graves Untermyer to be Ambassador to Qatar.

The President announced his intention to nominate William T. Monroe to be Ambassador to Bahrain.

The President declared a major disaster in Louisiana and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on May 12-19.

The President declared a major disaster in West Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, and landslides on May 27 and continuing.

June 9

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at Dunbar House, he had a breakfast meeting with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss the United Nations Security Council resolution on Iraq, the situations in Iraq and the Middle East, the upcoming NATO Summit, and other issues. He then participated in G-8 Summit meetings at the Sea Island Beach Complex.

In the afternoon, at the Sea Island Beach Complex, the President participated in a photo opportunity and outreach lunch with greater Middle East leaders. Later, he participated in photo opportunities and meetings with G-8 leaders and leaders of guest countries.